order to strengthen the monitoring mechanism further, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted an Environmental Management Agency as a single window agency to coordinate and monitor all the ongoing projects under NRCP.

Pollution in Ganga

3756. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution of the River Ganga, particularly in its course along Patna, Varanasi and Allahabad has rendered its water too dangerous for use, even for ritualistic bath by human beings;

(b) whether the objectives envisaged in the Ganga Action Plan have remained unrealized despite large sums having been spent on the project;

(c) details of funds spent region-wise on the Ganga Action Plan so far and benefits resulted therefrom; and

(d) actions contemplated, if any, for prevention of water pollution in the Ganga especially in its course along Varanasi and Allahabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) No, Sir. According to the water quality monitoring report of 2002, the water quality of Ganga, which is measured on monthly basis, is within the desired standards at Patna and Varanasi in terms of organic pollution. However at Allahabad, the average Biochemical Oxygen Demand level, which is an indicator of the organic pollution, was 3.8 miligram per litre during 2002 against the desired standard of 3 miligram per litre. The water quality of Ganga at Sangam Allahabad deteriorated in January and February, 2003 due to coloured discharge of partly treated and partly untreated industrial effluents of distilleries and agro-based industries upstream of Kanpur. After the intervention of the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board, discharge of these effluents was stopped in early March, 2003.

(b) Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, only 35 per cent pollution of Ganga has been tackled. The remaining pollution load has been taken up under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II which is under implementation. Wherever the sewage treatment plants set up under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I have been commissioned, the water quality of the river has shown improvement.

(c) The details of the funds spent on the projects (State-wise under Ganga Action Plan till 31-3-2003 are as under :—

(Rs. in crore)

States	Gang Action Plan Phase I	Ganga Action Plan Phase-II
Uttar Pradesh	190.12	70.91
Uttaranchal	—	4.47
Bihar	53.56	2.99
West Bengal	185.60	32.73
TOTAL	429.28	111.1

The benefits resulting from the implementation of the Action Plan are that a sewage treatment capacity of 865 million litres per day has been created in the above four States which would prevent discharge of as much quantity of untreated sewage into the Ganga, thereby minimizing the river pollution to that extent.

(d) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-II which includes pollution abatement works in Allahabad and Varanasi also is under implementation for tackling the remaining pollution.

Anti-Poaching Mechanism for Tigers

3757. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to hold a meeting with leading environmental NGOs to devise measures to tighten the anti-poaching mechanism for tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the various anti-poaching measures to save tigers in the country have been proved to be ineffective in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) As indicated in the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—2016) synergy with Non-Governmental